

Wherefore, having thus described the present invention, what is claimed is:

1. A process for sending electronic mail and facsimiles from a facsimile machine comprising the steps of:

5 a user entering into the facsimile machine a facsimile telephone number and an electronic mail address corresponding to a same recipient;

the user placing a document to be transmitted into a facsimile machine;

the fax machine storing the facsimile telephone number and electronic mail address in a memory location in a memory of the facsimile machine;

10 associating an actuator disposed on the facsimile machine to the memory location containing the facsimile telephone number and electronic mail address; and

the user activating said actuator to transmit a facsimile to the facsimile telephone number and electronic mail to the electronic mail address.

15 2. The process of Claim 1, wherein the actuator comprises one of (i) a button, or (ii) a switch.

3. The process of Claim 1, further comprising a step of transmitting at least one of (i) the facsimile and (ii) the electronic mail to the recipient via a server.

20 4. The process of Claim 3, wherein the facsimile machine comprises a PSTN connection, and wherein only the electronic mail is transmitted via the server, whereas the facsimile is transmitted directly to the recipient via the PSTN connection.

5. The process of Claim 3, wherein the step of transmitting at least one of (i) the facsimile and (ii) the electronic mail to the recipient via the server comprises the steps of the facsimile machine:

5 scanning the document to be transmitted and formatting message data derived from the scanned document;

appending standard facsimile formatting information, and the user-specified information comprising the facsimile telephone number and electronic mail address, to the formatted message data; and

10 transferring the formatted message data and appended information to the server.

6. The process of Claim 5, further comprising the steps of the server:
15 receiving the appended information and message data from the facsimile machine;

extracting the facsimile telephone number from the user-specified information;

transmitting the message data with the formatting data to a facsimile device associated with the facsimile telephone number;

20 extracting the electronic mail address from the user-specified information;

stripping the appended information from the message data;

applying a standard electronic mail header to the message data; and,

transmitting the message data with its applied electronic mail header to an electronic mail mailbox associated with the electronic mail address extracted from the user-specified information.

5 7. The process of Claim 1, wherein the facsimile machine comprises a PSTN connection and a connection to a wide area network, and wherein the process further comprises the steps of:

transmitting the facsimile via the PSTN connection; and

10 transmitting the electronic mail via the connection to the wide area network.

8. A system for sending electronic mail and facsimiles from a facsimile machine, comprising:

a computing device resident in the facsimile machine; and

15 a computer program comprising program modules executable by the computing device, wherein the computing device is directed by the computer program modules to,

store a facsimile telephone number and electronic mail address corresponding to a same recipient in a memory location in a memory of the facsimile

20 machine, said number and address having been previously entered by a user,

associate an actuator disposed on the facsimile machine to the memory location containing the facsimile telephone number and electronic mail address, and

transmit a facsimile of a document placed into the facsimile machine by the user to the facsimile telephone number, and an electronic mail version of the document to the electronic mail address, upon activation of the actuator by the user.

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9. The system of Claim 8, wherein the actuator comprises one of (i) a button, or (ii) a switch.

10. The system of Claim 8, wherein the transmitting program module comprises a sub-module for transmitting at least one of (i) the facsimile and (ii) the electronic mail to the recipient via a server.

11. The system of Claim 10, wherein the facsimile machine comprises a PSTN connection, and wherein the sub-module for transmitting via the server comprises only transmitting the electronic mail via the server, and transmitting the facsimile directly to the recipient via the PSTN connection.

12. The system of Claim 10, wherein the sub-module for transmitting at least one of (i) the facsimile and (ii) the electronic mail to the recipient via the server comprises sub-modules for:

scanning the document to be transmitted and formatting message data derived from the scanned document;

appending standard facsimile formatting information, and the user-specified information comprising the facsimile telephone number and electronic mail address, to the formatted message data; and

transferring the formatted message data and appended information to the
5 server.

13. The system of Claim 8, wherein the facsimile machine comprises a PSTN connection and a connection to a wide area network, and wherein the program module for transmitting comprises sub-modules for:

10 transmitting the facsimile via the PSTN connection; and
transmitting the electronic mail via the connection to the wide area
network.

14. A computer-readable memory for sending electronic mail and facsimiles
15 from a facsimile machine, comprising:

a computer-readable storage medium; and

a computer program comprising program modules stored in the storage medium, wherein the storage medium is so configured by the computer program that it causes a computing device resident in the facsimile machine to,

20 store a facsimile telephone number and electronic mail address
corresponding to a same recipient in a memory location in a memory of the facsimile machine, said number and address having been previously entered by a user,

associate an actuator disposed on the facsimile machine to the memory location containing the facsimile telephone number and electronic mail address, and

transmit a facsimile of a document placed into the facsimile machine by the user to the facsimile telephone number, and an electronic mail version of the document to the electronic mail address, upon activation of the actuator by the user.

15. The computer-readable memory of Claim 14, wherein the transmitting program module comprises a sub-module for transmitting at least one of (i) the facsimile and (ii) the electronic mail to the recipient via a server.

16. The computer-readable memory of Claim 15, wherein the facsimile machine comprises a PSTN connection, and wherein the sub-module for transmitting via the server comprises only transmitting the electronic mail via the server, and transmitting the facsimile directly to the recipient via the PSTN connection.

17. The computer-readable memory of Claim 15, wherein the sub-module for transmitting at least one of (i) the facsimile and (ii) the electronic mail to the recipient via the server comprises sub-modules for:

scanning the document to be transmitted and formatting message data derived from the scanned document;

appending standard facsimile formatting information, and user-specified information comprising the facsimile telephone number and electronic mail address, to the formatted message data; and

transferring the formatted message data and appended information to the
5 server.

18. The computer-readable memory of Claim 14, wherein the facsimile machine comprises a PSTN connection and a connection to a wide area network, and wherein the program module for transmitting comprises sub-modules for:

10 transmitting the facsimile via the PSTN connection; and
transmitting the electronic mail via the connection to the wide area
network.

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